

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 PRS-01 RSR-01 /063 W

----- 010688

R 050415Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2421

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

SECDEF

CJCS

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 8019

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINT, CB

SUBJ: STATUS OF NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION

REF: PHNOM PENH 7822

1. MINISTER OF DEFENSE MG U SAY AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR HEM KETH SANA HAVE PROVIDED US WITH A RESUME OF THE NATION'S FIRST WEEK OF EXPERIENCE WITH NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION, COMMENTING THAT EFFORTS TO DATE HAVE NOT WORKED WELL AND THAT A NEW APPROACH MUST BE FOUND. THEIR OBSERVATIONS, WHICH PARALLEL THOSE GIVEN US EARLIER IN THE WEEK BY PHNOM PENH GOVERNOR UN TRAMUCH (PARA 4 REFTTEL) FOLLOW.

2. AN ORDER FOR ALL PHNOM PENH MEN ELIGIBLE FOR THE DRAFT TO REPORT TO THEIR LOCAL REVIEW BOARDS ON JULY 29 WAS LARGELY IGNORED, WITH ONLY ABOUT 35 MEN RESPONDING. THE MINISTERS OF DEFENSE AND INTERIOR TOGETHER WITH THE PHNOM PENH GOVERNOR THEN DECIDED TO ASK THE NATIONAL GENDARMERIE TO PICK UP THOSE WHO HAD FAILED TO REPORT.

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3. THE JULY 30 "INDUCTION" OPERATION WAS ACCOMPANIED

BY ABUSES NOT ONLY BY SOME MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GENDARMERIE BUT BY AGENTS OF A FEW FANK COMMANDERS, WHO TOOK THIS OCCASION TO ROUND UP MEN FOR THEIR INDIVIDUAL UNITS. (THE CASE OF A ONE-ARMED MAN WHO WAS SHANGHAIED TO NEAK LOEUNG WAS CITED BY U SAY AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE LATTER ABUSE.) SOME 1,259 MEN WERE TAKEN BY THE NATIONAL GENDARMERIE TO THE TRAINING CENTERS AT PREY SAR AND KAMBOL, BUT TWO-THIRDS OF THESE WERE LATER FOUND TO BE EXEMPT FROM THE DRAFT AND WERE RELEASED THE FOLLOWING DAY. (AN AP CORRESPONDENT ATTEMPTING TO ACCOUNT FOR THE MEN RELEASED WAS FALSELY INFORMED BY A FANK MAJOR THAT THEY HAD BEEN SENT TO THE FRONT.)

4. PRIME MINISTER IN TAM, UPSET BY THE ABUSES OF THE JULY 30 ROUND-UP AND A REMARK BY FANK COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ SEEMINGLY PLACING THE RESPONSIBILITY THEREFORE ON HIS CABINET, SUCCEEDED ON JULY 31 IN IMPOSING NEW GROUND RULES. ACCORDING TO A GOVERNMENTAL CIRCULAR ISSUED ON THAT DATE, PHNOM PENH OFFICIALS ARE LIMITED TO SEEKING OUT THOSE ON REGISTRATION LISTS WHO HAVE NOT REPORTED (RATHER THAN RESORTING TO MASS ROUND-UPS) AND CANNOT INDUCT ANYONE BELOW THE 31-35 AGE GROUP. BECAUSE ELIGIBLE MALES ARE MOVING OUT OF THE AREAS IN WHICH THEY ARE REGISTERED TO ESCAPE DETECTION AND OBTAINING IDENTITY CARDS FALSIFYING THEIR AGES, THE NUMBER OF DRAFTEES INDUCTED FELL TO 140 ON JULY 31, ELEVEN ON AUGUST 1, 18 ON AUGUST 2, AND 10 ON AUGUST 3.

5. U SAY AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR HEM KETH SANA WERE TO MEET TODAY TO DEVISE OTHER MEANS OF INCREASING THE NUMBER OF INDUCTEES. ONE APPROACH TO BE CONSIDERED (AND WHICH WE STRONGLY SUPPORTED) IS ASSIGNING EACH SECTION OF THE CITY QUOTAS TO BE MET WITHIN A CERTAIN TIME PERIOD. THE PRIME MINISTER'S CIRCULAR WOULD IN ANY CASE APPARENTLY HAVE TO BE REVISED. IN THE MEANTIME, INDUCTIONS AT SVAY RIENG AND BATTAMBANG, WHICH ARE TO DRAFT 1,000 AND 6,000 RESPECTIVELY, HAVE BEEN ORDERED POSTPONED UNTIL THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE CAN ASSESS THE EFFECT OF REGIONAL RECRUITMENT

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CAMPAIGNS ON THE TOTALNUMBER OF EFFECTIVES. WE ARE TRYING TO GET THIS LATTER ACTION REVERSED.
ENDERS

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NNN

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